

keeper has a snug house to stay in. In the rural sections the gates are usually kept by an old hag who tries to see how unprepossessing she can look.

Every one whose income is over \$225 must pay an income tax. A part of this tax is paid over to the imperial government, and the State pays no other State tax to the national government. This tax received from the States, together with the customs, postal, telegraph and telephone receipts, go to pay the expenses of the army, navy and foreign service. The taxes on real and other property all go into the State treasury.

They have a rather peculiar tax, called the invalid and old age tax. This is levied on the laboring class and is a species of insurance. All who work for others and earn less than \$500 per year must pay a tax for the support of the aged and sick of their class. Even the servant girls must pay this tax monthly, and a policeman comes around to collect it from those who work by the month or the year. Those who do jobs here and there (and who cannot so easily be kept up with) must buy insurance stamps, and when they work a day for a person they must paste a stamp in a small book required by law to be kept for that purpose. This applies to washer women and those who do odd jobs. The employer must see to it that the laborer sticks the stamp in the book or he is liable to a fine. (But wouldn't such a law jolt some of our colored people who have no regular employment?) But there are no colored people in Northern Germany. That fact suggests another idea: there are no mules here, either. There is not a mule in this part of the country. Horses are used altogether.

It is a singular fact that no country in Continental Europe speaks one language only. In Germany there is high Dutch and low Dutch. High Dutch is the language of Martin Luther and made popular by his writings. The low Dutch is spoken mainly by the farmers. The "low" refers to the soil they occupy and not to their social position. A servant girl coming to the city from the country speaks low Dutch and must learn high Dutch. Then, also, the language in Southern Germany is not exactly the same as here. On several show windows here are the words, "English spoken," but it is mighty poor English. On a cigar window was, "English spoke." I went in for a smoke, and incidentally to get a few broken remarks on other matters, but he didn't "spoke" it at all.

I took a spin out in the country a day or so since to give the farmers some advice, but as they could not understand my "high" English, they missed some agricultural wisdom. I greatly desired to advise them to build their houses differently and to stop their social relations with their stock and cattle. Most of them have just one large house and everybody and everything lives under the one roof. The family, the horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, chickens, cats and dogs all live together upon the most friendly

terms, but in separate apartments. The lower animals enter at a large double door in one end, a large hall, if I may so term it, leads up near the middle of the house. On one side are the stalls and pens and just across is the kitchen, so that the odors of fried ham and ammonia may mingle in the most health-giving perfection. The family live in the other end. In the villages the stable end of the house fronts on the street. As I walked along the street in one village and passed one of these omnibus residences, an old cow stuck her head out at me, wearing a most benignant expression on her face. Evidently she enjoyed social equality with her owner, and her pleasing countenance was also intended as a welcome to the stranger within the gate.

Nearly all of these villagers wear large wooden shoes made in the shape of a steam tug. Men, women and children wear them. When two men meet they can scarcely pass each other on the street. I met one fellow who had very large feet. He looked as if he had poked them in two hollow logs. When the village school turns out you can hear the children's shoes striking on the paved streets for two hundred yards.

The public highways are maintained by State taxes and they are kept in most excellent condition, many of them paved with stone. Private roads are also required to be kept in good condition by the government. The splendid roads enable the farmers to carry large loads with one horse.

There is not freedom of speech or of the press in Germany. No matter what your opinions of the government or its officials may be, you had better keep quiet if you don't want to lie in prison. There is no such thing as publicly "cussing out" the administration. No one complains at this, for it has always been so with them. In America we have the other extreme, where liberty of the tongue and of the press, in discussing public men, has about "run to seed"

Bremen, Germany.

#### Wise Counsel from the South.

"I want to give some valuable advice to those who suffer with lame back and kidney trouble," says J. R. Blackship, of Beck, Tenn. "I have proved to an absolute certainty that Electric Bitters will positively cure this distressing condition. The first bottle gave me great relief and after taking a few more bottles I was completely cured; so completely that it becomes a pleasure to recommend this great remedy." Sold under guarantee at Crawford Bros. Funderburk Pharmacy drug store.

#### Wood's Seeds

**Seed Choice,  
Oats Heavy,  
Recleaned  
Stocks.**

We have thousands of bushels in stock, selected from the best crops grown in this country; all the best and most productive kinds:

**Burt, or 90-Day,  
Black Tartarian,  
Swedish Select,  
Red Rust Proof,**

White and Black Spring, Virginia Gray Winter, etc. Write for prices.

**WOOD'S NEW SEED BOOK for 1907** tells all about Seed Oats and all Farm and Garden Seeds. Mailed free on request.

**T. W. Wood & Sons, Seedsmen,  
RICHMOND, - VA.**



Why does one place become the right place? That is simple: Because at that place they treat people right. How? by giving good goods for the money they get. The goods we sell are good, better best—never trash. Whatever price we may charge you, you may depend upon it that you will at least get something good. You can no more afford to wear poor clothes than we can afford to sell them. If we sell poor clothes it will hurt our reputation; if you wear poor clothes it will hurt your reputation. Did you ever think about the value of what others think of you?

Respectfully,

## Lancaster Mercantile Co.

#### Rural Carrier Examination to be Held here 26th inst.

A rural carrier examination will be held in Lancaster on the 26th instant, as will be seen from the following letter received by Postmaster Hunter from the Rural Carrier Division of the Civil Service Commission, Washington:

It is the purpose of the Commission to hold a rural carrier examination in your county on Saturday, Jan. 26, 1907. In order that a register of eligibles

may be established in your office it is necessary that not less than 3 persons forward, on the prescribed form, proper applications, so that they will reach the Civil Service Commission (Rural Carrier Division), Washington, D. C., on or before Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1907. The necessary blanks are inclosed herewith. Please give this matter your immediate attention. Publicly post the announcements and take such other action as may be necessary to enable every person in

your community to understand the requirements relative to the filling of applications and to examinations.

#### How to Cure Chilblains.

"To enjoy freedom from chilblains," writes John Kemp, East Otisfield, Me., "I apply Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Have also used it for salt rheum with excellent results." Guaranteed to cure fever sores, indolent ulcers, piles, burns, wounds, frost bites and skin diseases. 25c at Crawford Bros. and Funderburk Pharmacy.

#### The Right Name.

Mr. August Sherpe, the popular overseer of the poor, at Fort Madison, Ia., says: "Dr. King's New Life Pills are rightly named; they act more agreeably, do more good and make one feel better than any other laxative." Guaranteed to cure biliousness and constipation. 25c at Crawford Bros. and Funderburk Pharmacy.